BOWENS
the power behind the picture

GeminiRx
Owner's Handbook

CONTENTS PG

INTRODUCTION	2
SAFETY NOTES	3
USING A GEMINI	3
GEMINI RX OVERVIEW	4
TRIGGERING A GEMINI RX	5
MODELLING CONTROL AND READY INDICATIONS	6
FLASH TUBE, LAMP AND FUSE REPLACEMENT	6-7
WARNING AND ERROR CONDITIONS	7
FLASH POWER CONTROL	7
FLASH POWER DUMP	8
PHOTOCELL	8
MOUNTING UNIT	8
COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS	9
TROUBLE SHOOTING	10
SPECIFICATIONS	11

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the Bowens Gemini Rx range of monolights.

In order to obtain the full benefit of this product, please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with this user guide.

Bowens International Ltd.

THE GEMINI RANGE

The Gemini monolight is a award-winning, world-class lighting system that has been designed to the highest possible standards.

Whether you are a studio or location based photographer, the Gemini offers the perfect lighting solution.

Compatible with Bowens award-winning Travelpak battery, the Gemini offers photographers the freedom and flexibility of being able to take your lights anywhere, at anytime.

Like all Bowens products, the Gemini flash system has been designed to withstand the rigors of todays hard working studios and location shoots.

SAFETY NOTES - DO

1.) Switch the power off and disconnect from the power supply before changing the modelling lamps or flash tube.
2.) Disconnect the power supply before changing a fuse. Never replace the fuse with one of a different rating. A spare fuse is located in the fuse holder at the rear of the unit.
3.) Exercise care when handling equipment that has been in use. The reflector and front end of the unit can become very hot.
4.) Avoid placing cables where they can be tripped over. Protect from heavy, sharp or hot objects that may cause damage and replace damaged cables immediately.
5.) Due to the high-voltage / high energy used in the Gemini units, all servicing must be carried out by a Bowens authorised service and repair centre.
6.) Remove the power cord by gripping the plug. Never pull the cord.
7.) Always remove the flash head covers before using.

SAFETY NOTES - DO NOT

1.) Use in an environment where moisture of flammable liquid is likely to come into contact with this product.
2.) Plug the Gemini into a mains supply and a Travelpak battery at the same time.
3.) Restrict air vents while in use.
3.) Use a unit with damaged housing, mouldings, flash tube or modelling lamp. If the unit is dropped or damaged in anyway, always have it checked before using.
5.) Operate the unit without a safe grounded (earthed) supply.

CONNECTING AND USING A GEMINI

Warning high voltage: never connect the Gemini to both a mains supply and a Travelpak battery at the same time. This appliance must be earthed when used with a mains supply. Disconnect the mains lead when changing the modelling lamps and flash tubes. The Gemini may be operated on either a mains supply or with a Bowens battery source, such as the Travelpak.

CONNECTING AND USING A GEMINI

For mains operation, the 'Mains / Battery' power switch (see page 4) should be in the upper position. For battery operation the switch should be in the lower position. The centre position is 'off'.

POWER CONNECTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1.) Ensure the power source is switched 'off'.
2.) Connect the unit to the power source using the appropriate cabling.
3.) If using a battery, ensure the power lead connectors are fully tightened.
4.) Switch the power source 'on', then turn 'on' the Gemini.
5.) The unit will charge and indicate it is ready by illuminating the green LED on the side of the unit ('beep' and 'lamp' ready functions are also available to indicate when unit is 100% charged).
6.) Press the 'Flash Test' button on the side of the unit to check unit fires.

A.) Modelling Lamp
B.) Flashtube
C.) Accessory Release
D.) Power Adjust Dial
E.) Test Flash & Ready Indicator
F.) Carry Handle
G.) Trigger Mode Button
H.) Photo Slave Cell
I.) Pulsar Radio Receiver Antenna
J.) Lamp Mode
K.) Lamp Level
L.) Ready Beep
M.) 1/4” Sync Socket
N.) AC/DC Power Switch
O.) DC Power Input
P.) AC Power Input
Q.) Fuse Holder
R.) L Bracket
S.) Position Adjustment Grip

TRIGGERING THE UNIT

There are a number of ways to trigger the Gemini Rx monolight. OPEN FLASH (Fig1.)- For testing or multiple flash applications the ‘Test Flash’ button can be used. SYNC SOCKET (Fig 2.)- The standard 1⁄4” jack socket on the rear panel of the unit may be used for direct connection to a camera or trigger system. PHOTOCELL (Fig 3.) - The Gemini has a built-in switchable (on/off) photocell enabling the unit to be triggered by an external flash source. PULSAR RADIO TRIGGER (Fig 4.) - The Gemini Rx features a built-in Pulsar radio trigger receiver so can be fired by a Pulsar or Pulsar Tx transmitter.

Two units may be connected together using a ‘Y’ connector. The sync connection on the Gemini Rx operates at +5V and is safe to use with digital cameras.

Fig 1.

Fig 2.

Fig 3.

Fig 4.

USING THE BUILT-IN PULSAR

To fire the Gemini Rx using a Pulsar radio trigger system, first ensure the unit is switched ‘on’. In order for the built-in Pulsar radio receiver to fire the Gemini Rx unit it must first be synchronised with the users chosen Pulsar transmitter.

To sync the built-in receiver with a Pulsar transmitter firstly press the ‘sync’ button (Fig 5.) until the ‘Cell’ icon (Fig 3.) is illuminated. Once the ‘Cell’ icon is illuminated press and hold the ‘Sync’ button, the ‘Cell’ icon will go out and the ‘Radio’ icon (Fig 4.) will turn on and then start flashing.

When the ‘Radio’ icon starts flashing release the ‘Sync’ button and then press the test/open flash button on the Pulsar transmitter several times until the ‘Radio’ icon stops flashing, the Gemini Rx unit will flash to confirm the built-in Pulsar receiver has been set in accordance to the signal received from the Pulsar transmitter and that the unit is ready.

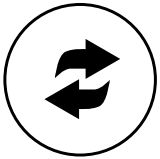
Fig 5. Sync Button

CHANGING THE PULSAR STUDIO/CHANNEL SETTING

If the Gemini Rx radio receiver is set to a specific studio/channel and the user needs to change the setting, simply scroll through the trigger options using the ‘sync’ button (Fig 5.) until the ‘Cell’ icon is highlighted. When the ‘Cell’ icon is highlighted set your Pulsar transmitter to the new studio/channel setting required.

Once you have set up the new studio/channel setting on your Pulsar transmitter, press and hold the ‘Sync’ button until the ‘Cell’ icon goes out and the ‘Radio’ icon (Fig 4.) starts flashing.

Once the ‘Radio’ icon starts to flash, release the ‘Sync’ button and press the test/open flash button on your Pulsar transmitter several times until the ‘Radio’ icon stops flashing, when the Pulsar receiver is again set to the desired studio/channel setting the Gemini Rx will flash to confirm the change and that the unit is ready to start shooting.

MODELLING LAMP CONTROL

The modelling lamp on the GM200Rx and the GM400Rx uses a phase control system with a soft 'on' and 'off' to prolong the life of the bulb. A 'lamp saver' function has also been incorporated into both units that will automatically turn on if no adjustments are made or flashes fired within 30 minutes. When the 'lamp saver' mode turns on the modelling lamp will 'dim' to min power.

The modelling lamp output is set using the switches on the rear of the unit (see page 4).

The modelling output can be set to either 'OFF' (by setting the LAMP:MODE switch set to upper position), 'PROPORTIONAL' to the flash output (by setting the LAMP:LEVEL switch set to lower position) or 'FULL' (by setting the LAMP:LEVEL switch set to upper position).

Note: When operating the Gemini from a battery the modelling function is disabled to preserve the power in the battery.

UNIT READY INDICATIONS

The modelling lamp can be used as an indicator of when the unit is 100% charged and ready to fire.
The 'LAMP:MODE' switch on the rear of the unit (see page 4) controls the modelling ready indicator function. When the switch is set in the 'lower' position the modelling lamp ready indicator will be turned 'on', and will extinguish the lamp when the unit is fired and will relight once the unit has fully recharged. If the 'LAMP:MODE' switch is set to the 'centre' position the modelling ready function will be turned 'off' and the modelling lamp will remain 'on' continuously.

Both units also have a built-in audible ready 'beep' indication where the unit will emit a short beep to confirm that the unit has 100% charged and is ready to fire. If the 'BEEP' switch on the rear panel of the unit (see page 4) is set in the 'upper' position the beep indication will be turned 'off'. If the 'BEEP' switch is set to the 'lower' position the ready beep will be turned 'on'.

FLASH TUBE REPLACEMENT

Ensure the unit is switched off and disconnected from the power supply before changing the flash tube. Wait for a sufficient time until the flashtube has cooled down. Once cooled, unwind the twisted trigger wire from the flash tube support and gently pull the flash tube out of the unit. To replace the flash tube, hold as shown (Fig 6.) while making sure to support both legs of the flash tube, and gently push the flash tube into position. Finally, wind the trigger wire around the flash tube support. Always replace with the correct flash tube assembly.

Fig 6.

MODELLING LAMP REPLACEMENT

Switch off and disconnect the unit from power supply. If the unit has been in use, allow a sufficient amount of time to cool down before touching. Unscrew modelling lamp from housing and replace with the correct lamp type (see Fig 7.).

FUSE REPLACEMENT

The modelling and flash circuitry are protected by a single 20mm fuse mounted in the rear panel of the unit. A fuse may blow when the modelling lamp fails; always check the fuse when replacing a bulb. A spare fuse is located in the draw underneath the mains connection (see Fig 8.) at the rear of the unit. The fuse draw contains two fuses, the furthest fuse inside the draw is the live fuse and the nearest one is a spare. Never replace the fuse with one of a different rating. Always switch off the unit and disconnect the power supply before changing a fuse.

Fig 7.

Fig 8.

WARNING / ERROR CONDITIONS

There are four alarms / warnings on the Gemini Rx to indicate possible function issues. The alarms / warnings are shown via the green ready LED; alarms / warnings may also be accompanied by a beep (if switched on).

1.) Charge Fail - Green ready LED will continuously emit a brief flash and intermittent beep.

2.) Overheat - Green ready LED will flash once every 2.5 seconds.

3.) Misfire - Green ready LED will flash twice every 2.5 seconds along with a beep.

4.) Glow On - GREEN ready LED flashes 3 times every 2.5 seconds accompanied by a beep.

FLASH POWER CONTROL

The flash power is set using the single rotary dial on the side of the unit. The flash power output is variable over 5 stops, from full to 1/32. The max power output is dependant upon the model (see specifications) and is denoted by the number 6 on the control panel. The numeric divisions indicate one full stop of flash power. Once the unit has changed to the desired setting, the green LED will illuminate indicating that the unit is ready to fire (may also be accompanied by a beep if switched on).

NB. If the unit is subject to rapid operation over extended periods, the unit may automatically go into ‘overheat’. In this condition, the ready LED will flash every 2.5 seconds while the charging and modelling functions will be disabled to enable the unit to cool. The unit will automatically resume operation once cooled sufficiently.

AUTO FLASH POWER DUMP

A resistive dump facility is included on the GM200Rx and GM400Rx, to automatically decrease the power charge should the setting be reduced by the user. This will be indicated by the green ready LED flashing slowly until the power has been 'dumped' and the unit is ready at the new desired setting. The unit can also be flashed using the 'Test Flash' button to reset the unit to the lower power setting.

Green Ready LED - The green ready LED on the side of the unit shows the charge state as follows:

Powerdown - LED off.
Charging - LED flashes quickly.
Ready - LED stays lit continuously.
Power Dumping (or requires dumping) - LED flashes slowly.

PHOTOCELL

The Photocell is a built-in light sensitive trigger that allows the unit to be fired from an external flash source. The 'Sync' button (Fig 5.) on top of the unit allows the Photocell to be switched on or off.
To turn the photocell 'on' simply use the 'Sync' button to scroll through the trigger options until the 'Cell' icon (Fig 3.) is highlighted. To turn the photocell 'off' press the 'Sync' button until the 'Cell' icon is not illuminated.

MOUNTING UNIT TO SUPPORT STAND

Mount the Gemini unit on the selected support system. The mounting bush on the 'L' bracket allows for two possible ways of mounting the unit to the support stand - A and B. Method B may be used if the light is required to point either directly up or down.

TRANSPORTING UNITS

When transporting any Bowens units, ensure that all equipment is carefully packed into appropriate bags and/or hard shell cases. Make sure all items are securely placed inside the appropriate baggage to protected from any knocks.

When transporting flash units make sure to fully discharge flash power before packing. A quick way to ensure a unit is discharged is to turn the unit on, wait for it to charge to 100% and then open flash the unit using the 'test' button, then quickly turn off before the unit has recharged.

Flash units can become very hot after use. Always wait a minimum of 30 minutes before packing to allow units to cool sufficiently.

If any unit is dropped and/or knocked during transport, always have the unit checked by an authorised Bowens service/repair centre before using.

CE MARKING

All Bowens products are certified by the CE mark. The CE certified mark is a declaration of conformity to the required EEC directives 89/336/EEC 'Electromagnetic Compatibility' and 73/23/EEC 'Low Voltage Directive'.

FCC CLASS B COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- This device may not cause harmful interference.
- This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Warning: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection. This equipment uses radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Notice: Shielded interface cable must be used in order to comply with emission limits. Notice: Changes or modification not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

POWER CABLES

Only use Bowens approved mains or battery cables to power Bowens products.

All mains cables must be used as appropriate to the flash units rated power voltage, and the correct mains pin-configuration.

DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

This product must be recycled in the correct manner. In order to recycle this product in an environmentally friendly way, please dispose of at your local electronic waste facility.

If you have any questions regarding the disposal of any Bowens products, contact your local Bowens retailer and/or Bowens distributor (a list of which can be found on the bowens website).

Problem?	Check.
No Power	• Check the unit is switched 'on'. • Check the power cable is inserted correctly. • If using a mains cable, check the fuse on the plug.
No Flash	• Check flash tube is inserted into the flash head correctly. • Check the trigger wire is in contact with the flash tube support. • Change the flash tube. If changing the flash tube does not correct the fault, the unit may have a component failure. If problem persists, return the unit to your local Bowens service / repair centre.
Modelling Lamp not working	• Change the modelling lamp. • Change fuse at rear of unit. If problem continues, return the unit to your nearest Bowens service / repair centre.
Unit will not flash from Photocell	• Check the Photocell is switched 'on'. • Check Photocell is not covered and can 'see' the trigger flash. If problem continues, return the unit to an authorised Bowens service / repair centre.

Problem?	Check.
Unit will not recharge	• Check power cable is inserted correctly. • If using a battery, check battery has sufficient charge remaining to power the unit. • Change the fuse at the rear of the unit. • Check the units voltage supply is correct. If problem continues, return the unit to an authorised Bowens service / repair centre.
Ready 'beep' not working	• Check the BEEP switch at the rear of the unit is turned 'on'. • Make sure unit is reaching full recharge. If unit continues with problem return to an authorised Bowens service / repair centre.
Unit won't fire from 'sync' connection	• Check the sync cord / trigger system is inserted into the trigger system correctly. Check the connections at both ends of the cord are okay. • Try another sync cord.

Problem?	Check.
Unit appears ready but won't fire	• If the unit appears ready but will not fire i.e. power is on and green ready LED displayed but unit will not fire; the unit may be in 'overheat' mode. • The units 'trigger mode' may be set incorrectly i.e. the user may be trying to trigger the unit from a Pulsar trigger system with the unit set to 'Cell' or 'off'.
Flash tube only emits a faint glow and will not fire	• Check flash tube is inserted into the unit correctly and all connections are made. • Change flash tube. If unit continues with problem return to an authorised Bowens service / repair centre.

Legal Notice.
Bowens® and 'the power behind the picture'® are registered trademarks of Bowens International Ltd. Due to out policy continual product imp[rovement, Bowens INternational Ltd reserves the right to change equipment specifications at any time and without notice. The information contained in this user guide should not be relied on solely before making a purchase, seek further information from your photographic retailer. © 2010 Bowens International Ltd.

Specifications	Gemini 200Rx (117V)	Gemini 400Rx (117V)	Gemini 200Rx (230V)	Gemini 400Rx (230V)
Sync Voltage	5V	5V	5V	5V
Colour Temperature	5600K (±300K)	5600K (±300K)	5600K (±300K)	5600K (±300K)
Fuse Rating	10A F	10A F	5A F	5A F
Supply Voltage AC	95-130VAC 50/60Hz	95-130VAC 50/60Hz	190-250VAC 50/60Hz	190-250VAC 50/60Hz
Flash Power Stability	±1%	±1%	±1%	±1%
Guide No @ 3m with 50° Keylite	60	80	60	80
Recycle Time (to full)	1.1 seconds	1.65 seconds	0.7 seconds	1.2 seconds
Modelling Control	Mode (Off/Cont/Int) Level (Full/Prop)	Mode (Off/Cont/Int) Level (Full/Prop)	Mode (Off/Cont/Int) Level (Full/Prop)	Mode (Off/Cont/Int) Level (Full/Prop)
Modelling Level Control	Full to 1/32 5 stops	Full to 1/32 5 stops	Full to 1/32 5 stops	Full to 1/32 5 stops
Flash Duration t=0.5	1/1450	1/1000	1/1450	1/1000
Flash Power Control	Full to 1/32 5 stops	Full to 1/32 5 stops	Full to 1/32 5 stops	Full to 1/32 5 stops
Modelling Lamp	Max 275W	Max 275W	Max 275W	Max 275W
Ready Indication	100%	100%	100%	100%
Flash Tube	UV=BW2032 Clear=BW2030	UV=BW2032 Clear=BW2030	UV=BW2032 Clear=BW2030	UV=BW2032 Clear=BW2030
Photocell	On/Off	On/Off	On/Off	On/Off
Radio	On/Off/Channel Select	On/Off/Channel Select	On/Off/Channel Select	On/Off/Channel Select
Sounder	On/Off	On/Off	On/Off	On/Off
Modelling Lamp	250W 117V - BW1024B	250W 117V - BW1024B	250W 230V - BW1024A	250W 230V - BW1024A
Weight	2.6Kg	2.8Kg	2.5Kg	2.7Kg
Dimensions (LxWxH) - mm	320 x 150 x 150mm	320 x 150 x 150mm	320 x 150 x 150mm	320 x 150 x 150mm
Dimensions (LxWxH) - inches	12.5” x 6” x 6”	12.5” x 6” x 6”	12.5” x 6” x 6”	12.5” x 6” x 6”

GeminiRx

BOWENS
the power behind the picture

www.bowens.co.uk